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WASHINGTON, DC - U.S. Congressman Mike Pence delivered the following speech from the floor of the U.S. House in support of Israel:

"Today, I had the privilege of welcoming the Prime Minister of Israel, Benjamin Netanyahu, for his second visit to the United States Capitol. The American people consider Israel our most cherished ally and we her closest friend and guardian.

"As we met, Israel lives under the shadow of a threatening neighbor seeking nuclear weapons, but remarkably, this administration seems intent on focusing on a controversy over construction in undisputed areas of Jerusalem instead of the threat of a nuclear Iran. As I just told the Prime Minister, I never thought I would live to see the day that an American administration would denounce the state of Israel for rebuilding Jerusalem.

"If the world knows nothing else, let it know this, America stands with Israel. As the president meets with Prime Minister Netanyahu today, I urge the president to stop all this talk about settlements in Jerusalem and start focusing on isolating a threatening and menacing and rising nuclear Iran. The American people and the American Congress in both parties support the state of Israel."